

Malika Abdul-Basir

From: Dessa <dessacosma@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 3:07 PM
To: Malika Abdul-Basir
Subject: HB 4249

Good Afternoon,

My name is Dessa Cosma-King and I attended the Commerce Committee meeting last week to testify in opposition to HB 4249. Due to time constraints, I was not able to speak despite having turned in a card.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share my testimony before the Committee votes.

I am a person with a disability. I was born without femurs or knees and use a wheelchair to get around. As someone is intimately aware of what it means to deal with a disability every day, and as someone who is an advocate for the disability community in various capacities, I can tell you that for people with disabilities -and for parents of children with disabilities- paid sick leave is essential to the tough balancing act of life and work. There are already so many extra barriers and hardships for people like me, that having to choose between a day's pay and a much needed doctor's visit is particularly detrimental. To work and live independently, like most of us aim to do, common sense accommodations (that are good for everyone) go an an extra long way for us.

As someone who wants everyone to have the opportunity to live and work independently, I ask this Committee to NOT preempt the efforts that may be made by municipalities around the state to implement paid sick days. Good ideas bubbling up at the local level are a great start, when at the state level things may be moving slowly. Rather than nipping progress in the bud, I support local control and idea adopting so that people like me can enjoy a well balanced quality of life and love the place we live.

Thank you,
Dessa Cosma-King
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